

THE BULLETIN—VOL 44, NUMBER 13 April 1, 2018

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Harvey Allen

PM: Harvey Allen

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!

HOW DO YOU KNOW GOD LOVES YOU?

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” - Romans 5:8

Examine yourself! Are you really in the faith? (2 Cor 13:5)

West Columbia Church of Christ
1701 Augusta Road
West Columbia SC 29169
www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

**JOIN US IN
PRACTICING
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
TODAY,
COME SEE!**

SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM , 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320
Nursery provided

INFORMAL BIBLE STUDY

Saturdays 3 pm
Everyone Welcome!
Bring your friends & Bible questions

EVANGELIST

Other than the members
none at present time
Full time position open

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**WEST COLUMBIA
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

“every disciple that is perfect shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b

WHAT CAN I DO?

Have you ever felt left out? That you weren't important; not worth much if anything; that you couldn't make some great contribution? Maybe you've felt that way in the church: "Oh, I wish I could speak like that man..." or "Oh, I wish I could quote scripture like so and so ..." or "Oh, I wish I was a leader in the church like what's his name ...". Have you ever felt like that? **WELL DON'T!!!**

It is the **Lord** we want to be pleased with us; not other people. If the Lord is pleased with us, we ought to be pleased also. If He is pleased with us, what then does it matter what other people think of us? And the other way around too. If the Lord is **not** pleased with us, we better not be pleased with ourselves. If He is not happy with us, it doesn't matter how popular or respected we are in the world or even in the church.

Let's all aim to please the Lord. **We can!** He tells us how in his Word. The things He delights in are things that each and every one of us, without exception, can (and must!) possess:

"Thus saith the Lord,

**Let NOT the wise man glory in his WISDOM,
NEITHER let the mighty man glory in his MIGHT,
Let NOT the rich man glory in his RICHES:**

**But let him that glorieth glory in this,
That he UNDERSTANDETH and KNOWETH me,
That I am the Lord, which exercise
LOVINGKINDNESS, JUDGEMENT, and RIGHTEOUSNESS,
in the earth:**

For in THESE things I DELIGHT, saith the Lord." - Jeremiah 9:23,24

Young or old, rich or poor, great or small, man or woman, let's **all** strive and hunger for knowledge and understanding of God and His ways—the spiritual ways of Mercy, Love, Judgment and Righteousness. Study God's word—the Bible.

“for if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” - 2 Peter 1:8

- Ed Kelleher, West Columbia church of Christ, South Carolina

Examine yourself, whether you are in the faith ... or not! (2 Cor 13:5)

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org South Carolina 4/1/2018

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Merrie Christmus, Dorothy Gray & family, Margaret Herring, Pat Joyner, Jan Kelleher, Gwen Pittman, Stephanie Rigney.*

- **Lauren** had a bad day Wed. and has doctor's appointment Thursday.
- **Connie and Floyd** will be traveling Sunday.
- **Judy's** doctors are still trying to find out what is wrong.
- **Stephanie and Steve** may be traveling this weekend.
- Keep **Lauren's niece Lillian and Lauren's sister Kayla** in your prayers as doctors try to determine an accurate diagnoses for Lillian.
- **Margaret Herring** has been in the hospital.
- Continue to remember them in prayers to God, for His mercy, and their relief.
- **Janet Boyd** requests prayers for her cousin **Errol Vonn**, who has visited here.
- We've not heard from **Marshall Turbyfill** for awhile, keep him in your prayers.
- **Jan Kelleher** is still suffering debilitating side effects from chemotherapy. She continues to be in pain from bone cancer, but so far it is not spreading. All thanks and glory to **God** that the cancer is still not spreading,
- **Pray for all these**, and our search for an **evangelist** to help us with the work of the Lord here at West Columbia. Give **thanks** to God for his goodness and love for us.

O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.” - Matthew 26:39

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Men's meeting Sunday, 5 pm** at the building regarding **Tavaris Armstrong** working with us here as a gospel preacher, to help us in evangelism and growth.
- **No first Sunday luncheon today.**
- **MEN!** Sunday AM and PM please find **Jason, Jones** or whoever is putting together the assembly duty roster and volunteer to help with prayer, Lord's table, singing, etc.
- **ALL! Contact** those on the Directory list you've not seen recently (like last Sunday).
- **ALL! INVITE SOMEONE TO VISIT US!** Give them one of the **church cards** that are on the table in the foyer. If you take some, please use them.

"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him." - 1 Corinthians 12:18.

Examine yourself! Are you really in the faith? (2 Cor 13:5)

WE MUST KNOW GOD'S WAYS AND WANT TO DO THEM!

How important are the thoughts of our hearts as compared to our actions—what we do? Look what the Lord said was the Israelites' problem:

"Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways." - Psalms 95:10

Is your heart different from God's, are you erring? Better check before it's too late!

WOULD YOU DIE...FOR CHOCOLATE PIE?

I “love” chocolate cake (not “pie” as the title suggests, since “die” rhymes with “pie” and not “cake” -- but I digress). I always have. I also love God. I “love” them both. What's the problem? Well, *I* know there's a difference in loving food, and loving God, so the problem is not my *heart*. The problem is my *language*. The word “love” in our language has basically been diluted, to the point that it has almost totally lost its original meaning. What other conclusion can you come to when one word can, to most people, encompass both food, and deity?

Obviously when I say “I love God,” I *mean* something different than when I say “I love cake.” The word is the same, but the meaning is clearly different, when you look at the context.

In the Greek language (commonly recognized as the language of the first century) when Christ asked Peter if he loved Him (John 21), he wasn't asking if he loved Him the same way he loved his favorite food. He wasn't asking if he loved Him the same way he loved his favorite pair of sandals. He was asking if he loved (“agapa” = in the original language) Him so much that he would *die* for Him. Peter wouldn't die for his favorite pair of sandals. I wouldn't die for chocolate cake (or “pie” if you're in a rhyming mood). And yet I say I “love” it?

It seems as though the word “love” has been used so flippantly, that its original meaning is hard to be discerned. A man may tell his significant other that he loves her, having just known her for a couple of weeks. Would he die for her? I think not. Eventually they may get married, and raise a family. Would he die for them then? Yes he would. Because now he truly “loves” them. The word has meaning to him now. Recall what Paul said about the sacrifice of Christ: **“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:6-8).**

Christ died because He “loved” us. Would Christ have died for His favorite food (He was human, I'm sure He had a favorite food)? No. Would He have even said He “loved” his favorite food. Probably not. Consider what Paul said concerning the Christian's love for Christ: **“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?... As it is written, For Thy sake we are killed all the day long...” (Romans 8:36).** Would a Christian die for Christ? Yes. Why? Because he **loves** Christ. Would he die for...chocolate pie? No. Now tell me why... Let's make sure, then, that we're careful about the words we use.

- **Matthew Martin**, Assistant Minister, Forest Hill church of Christ, Memphis, Tenn.

“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.” - Matthew 16:24,25

Examine yourself! Are you really in the faith? (2 Cor 13:5)